



# NUSLETTER

An educational publication of Childhood Sensuality Circle for the liberation of children and youth.

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A Study of Pre-Teen Pornography is being undertaken by Parents' Liberation group in collaboration with Dr. Audrey Meade, Ph D & her staff from subject matter that has been collected from around the world. It will be published in a 7 volume book Pre-Teen in Commercial Photography. A collection of 15,600 photos (sets & singles), 211 films & 20 magazines has been gathered together & out of it a selection of 4900 illustrations were made to go with the text that features a short history of porno, intervus with both child & adult models/performers, commentary by Prof. Meade & an analysis of the whole. About 91% of the material obtained from Europe was actually produced in U.S. All material was purchased from dealers, not collectors. The study features only pre-teen age youngsters 6-12 years. The subjects are child-child & child-adult sex with child-adult situations being 89% of the collection. Little girls posed with adult men & women are the favorite. The preferred acts are oral sex, anal intercourse & Vaginal intercourse. The study is concerned with the actual participation of boys & girls in the actual production of the pictures, not with the effects of porno on pre-teen children. The big feature about the study is that the "raison d'etre" for the study was the children & only the participation of many children made the study possible.

There will be 2 editions — one containing the 4,900 illustrations in 7 volumes that will not be sold to the public. It will be given to pre-selected professionals & Valida as leader of a children's liberation circle. A non-illustrated edition will be published for public sale. Tentative date for the illustrated copy will be July & of the other August. No price has been set to date.

A CSC member has suggested that the story of how the sources were found would in itself make an interesting story.

Parents' Liberation is considering making this collection of photos which has been given to them by Prof Meade into a Visual Aids Loan Service to qualified families to teach home sex education. There would be no hard-core porno.

"Help Fight Porno-Teach Balling at Home" (a bumper sticker). It seems that the message is getting around.



### Status Offenders: Kids or Criminals?

An article in the Oakland Press Detroit, Michigan for April 20 by Victoria Graham. Evidently parents, judges, the juvenile courts, social service agencies & professionals dealing with status offenders are at their wits end trying to find solutions to the problems of youth who get in trouble inside & outside of the home. The term status offender is rather a nu one. It applies to those with the legal status of minors who misbehave but have not been convicted of any crime, as opposed to juvenile delinquents who have. Their real offense is the state of being a legal minor & as such does not have the rights accorded to adults. Their offenses range from being at odds with themselves, at war with their families & society because they cannot do what adults can without being penalized. Because they are under age they are considered truants, runawas, are considered incorrigible because they stay out too late, drink too much, use filthy language, keep bad company & make love.

What to do with these children is a fundamental issue now that the juvenile justice system is overloaded & under fire for being unable to stem the tide of crimes by children. The debate centers around whether to leave status offenders at home, place them in small group homes or reformatories & training schools or whether the juvenile courts should have jurisdiction at all. Many professionals are united in opposition to training schools, another name for prisons & insist that they should not be mixed with tuf delinquents. It costs taxpayers an average of \$11,660 to keep a status offender in training school nationwide & halfwa houses & group homes an average of \$5,500.

The National Council on Crime & Delinquency, the National Juvenile Justice Standards Project & the American Civil Liberties Union are calling for an end to juvenile court jurisdiction over status offenders & so free the courts to concentrate on kids who actually commit crimes. The Nu York Aclu declares that behavior which is part of growing up if you are white & middle class becomes a status offense if you are poor. The National Council of Juvenile Court Judges & the N.Y. State Association of Family Court Judges & N.Y. State Office of Children's Services believe that courts should keep jurisdiction. They want to keep the power of the courts supreme. Most, if not all of these judges are men & men do not want to relinquish any power in this authoritarian patriarchial society.

(CSC Nusgatherers Service)

We in CSC believe there should be an entirely different outlook & approach to the problem of status offenders & juvenile delinquents, that present society is making children status offenders & delinquents because they are not considered persons, people in their own rite, that children are not given an opportunity to demonstrate that they can make decisions for themselves & carry out the responsibilities attached to these decisions. We consider that the struggle is between parents and government on one side who insist upon enforcing ageism & children who want to be free to live their own lives as soon as they are capable of doing so. The difference of opinion between the time children consider themselves responsible for their own lives & that of parents & government is what is needed to be determined, not suppression & punishment for being a minor & all the restraints imposed because of age.



A Retuer's Dispatch via St. Louis, Mo.

carried an article entitled A Plan to Legalize Teenage Sex. Dr. Montgomery, a Philadelphia physician, has proposed 2 years' trial marriages for teens as an outlet for adolescent sexual energy in an article in the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology. He suggests that males 18 & females one year younger be allowed to live together in a legal arrangement called paramarriage. One month before living together a couple would apply for a paramarriage certificate, have a medical exam & be given contraceptive information. The partners would keep their own names & any offspring would take the fathers' names & be the responsibility of both partners. The paramarriage could be annuled after 2 years by either party with 4 months advance notice or the arrangement could be made into a regular marriage by adjusting the paramarriage certificate. Dr. Montgomery believes society provides no acceptable outlet for release of adolescent sexual energy other than legal marriage & sees his proposal as an attempt to bridge the years between sexual maturity & the time for marriage. He cites figures showing 50% of adolescents 15-19 engage in sexual intercourse, that one-half use no contraceptives and that today's young people consider sex natural, not immoral. He suggests that paramarriage could reduce venereal disease among teen-agers & the incidence of abortion. It would provide companionship, a legitimate area of intersexuality & preparation for formal marriage.

(CSC Nusgatherers' Service)

### Baby Boy Doll: Is It Too Much Realism?

Article in the San Diego Evening Tribune of April 27, 1976, by Barbara Herrera. America's most controversial nu toys are the Baby Brother Tender Love & Joey Stivic dolls. They will be available in several San Diego toy stores by June. Joe is Archie Bunker's grandson, born before millions of TV viewers in a realistic portrayal of natural childbirth. Expensive advertising campaigns are now under way for both dolls & are shaking up the toy business because these dolls are the first widely promoted American-made boy dolls correct to the last detail. Both drink & wet. Two other dolls are coming out too, Lil David & Lil Ruthie, a baby boy doll & baby girl both anatomically correct & manufactured by Horsman Dolls in New York. Ideal Toy Corporation that is producing Joey Stivic dolls has another doll that has sold over a million since last year. It is a child doll until the arm is raised when Skipper develops breasts, becomes taller & her waist narrower. A variety of European-made dolls have long been available in U.S. & San Diego but because of high price & low promotion has primarily been of interest to doll collectors. Moneysworth for April 26 contains this item: Penis Envy: In response to the Mattel Toy Co's. announcement that it will market a boy doll complete with penis, the Ideal Toy Co. has put a similar doll in production. There will be one obvious difference between the 2 dolls: Ideal's will be circumcized while Mattel's will not.

(CSC Nusgatherers' Service)

I shall look for the uncircumcized boy doll - Valida



# AN ANALYSIS OF THE SEXUAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE WESTERN CHILD (WITH SOME PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE)

by ROBIN VERNER

" . . . (S)exual urges and activity are a natural and universal characteristic of children as well as adults . . ." says W. E. Pepper in The Self-Managed Child. This precept is supported by much research (Kinsey, 1948, 1953; Reich, 1962; Gagnon, 1963). Even infants respond pleasurable to the stimulation of erogenous zones (Halvorson, 1940; SIECUS, 1970). But this culture's strict rules deprive the child of sexual pleasure. These sexual taboos constitute a sexual indoctrination far more powerful than political or religious indoctrination (though the three interact and are dependent on one another). Sexual indoctrination begins earlier in life and is less tangible. I am convinced that the conventional system of sexual repression is unhealthy for the individual, and ultimately, for the society. This repression consists principally of isolating the child from sexual pleasure, separating the two sexes, and for as long as possible, keeping secret the knowledge that sexual contact is a common pleasurable occurrence.

In order to postulate the results of ceasing the communication of sexual taboos to the child, we should first examine the reasons given for the taboos. (I will not argue with religious, ethical, and moral reasons, believing these to be a tool of the taboos rather than the source of them.) Persons who think it best to continue the taboos against active childhood sexuality may (after giving their religious, ethical, and moral objections) give two principal justifications for their position.

The first is the fear that the development of incestuous relationships may prevent the child from developing relationships outside the family, causing inbreeding and defective offspring. However, this idea is based on the rather naive assumption that the sexually active child will be interested to a great extent in relatives. Furthermore, there is much evidence that the idea that inbreeding itself causes defective offspring is a myth. Only slight effects have been found even in groups that have been practicing inbreeding for centuries. When inbreeding occurs, the production of genetically defective offspring is in families with a history of congenital defects established prior to the inbreeding (Krieger, 1969; Martin, 1973; Neel, 1970; Sauer, 1965; Schull, 1965; Stern, 1960; Vogel, 1961; von Verschuer, 1959). Problems of jealousy within the family would have to be dealt with in a responsible manner, and would probably be more difficult to handle than problems of unwanted pregnancies with today's availability of contraceptives.

In case this all seems a bit inapplicable to you as a Mensa member (we're far too smart to get mixed up in such things as incest), note this: In 1965 Gebhard and colleagues published results of a study in which the average IQ of incest offenders was found to be 138. And these are only the ones who were dumb enough to get caught. Maisch (1972) observes that ". . . the incidence of really 'weak-witted' people amongst those committing incest is very low . . ."

The second immediate concern about sexually active children is fear of alienation from society. (What would the neighbors think?) But denying your sexuality alienates you from yourself. Persons with sexually active children need a strong conviction that social institutions should be adjusted to meet the needs of people rather than vice versa. It helps to have friends with similar convictions in order to have the patience to deal with relatives and



others who may not approve of the child's sexual expression.

So why go to all this trouble? Look around and you will see little girls carrying dolls with no genitals, representing the sexless children they are expected to mother. And little boys, who are taught to hide their penises and carry a gun as a substitute. What about destructive aggression? Wilhelm Reich (1962) believed that if a child's sexual urges were thwarted as a primary pleasure seeking activity, anger and frustration would lead to a secondary search for pleasure, one of a destructive nature. Even if this theory is not accurate, it is a fact that much guilt and anxiety result when one worries that basic constituent drives are evil. And while advertising takes advantage of sex drive by using it as a lure, every day most children in our culture receive the message that sex is evil. It seems a few people have begun to advance the anti-Biblical idea that pleasure is not of necessity evil. But even they would have you choose from a short list of pleasures that is even shorter if you happen to be a member of the relatively powerless group called children. Pepper (1973) said it well:

Even the most sophisticated and 'progressive' among our culture's elders have difficulty in negotiating the reasonable but emotionally difficult terrain of allowing their children full and open freedom to explore the very human and fulfilling world of sexuality, without which they must be consigned to internalize all of the culture's perpetuated guilts, fears, and restrictions upon an essential part of the unfolding personality. (This culture's sexual rules constitute) efforts designed to cripple sexuality in infancy and early childhood . . . From a social standpoint, children are educated to asceticism . . .

Yet in the face of these efforts, when the child persists in the exhibition of sexual interest, it is too often dismissed as "curiosity."

In order to convey a more positive, encouraging attitude to the children around you than that with which you were raised, it is important to analyze the mechanisms by which anxiety-causing messages are conveyed to a child. Following are 10 of our arbitrary social customs which teach a child that sexual desires are evil and unacceptable, and alternatively, 10 ways parents (and others) can enable a child to accept and enjoy sexual desires.

1. Incest taboos: Sex drive first manifests itself in love for the parents, who may be cold and unresponsive (or punitive) if a little hand touches the "wrong" place. The parents may avoid caressing the child in the places that feel best, not realizing what this tells the child. These are the same parents who feel most threatened and show the greatest jealousy when the child becomes sexually involved with someone else. If this someone else should happen to be older than the child, the older person is labeled a "child molester" (even though no coercion may have been involved) by persons who prefer to believe that sexual desire, rather than the repression of it, is the cause of trauma. As an alternative, show your affection in the ways that are most appreciated. Sexual contact is not traumatic when it is a natural, everyday part of life. A concomitant responsibility -- think before you let jealousy cause you to be overly restrictive when the child is affectionate with someone else.

2. Masturbation taboos: Some families don't tolerate masturbation, some others say "Go to the bathroom to do that," for fear of embarrassment if



someone sees it. It is perfectly natural for infants and young children to masturbate, and most people are aware of the fact. If a child embarrasses you in public with this activity, and the child is old enough to understand, explain. But it's irresponsible to rely on punishment by slapping an infant's hand. Punishment changes behavior in a way that produces lasting fear and anxiety.

3. Early weaning: The sexual arousal accompanying breast-feeding causes anxiety and guilt feelings in many women. On the other hand, some women (who understand that nature intended for this to be pleasurable) have experienced orgasm while breast-feeding, as Masters and Johnson found (Brecher, 1966). In societies where breast-feeding is provided as long as the child desires it, self-weaning occurs gradually, concluding at 3 to 5 years of age (Ericson, 1950). But in western society, this intimate contact between mother and child is either avoided altogether or shortened considerably. The change of attitude may help when mothers are not afraid of this stimulating experience with incestuous overtones, and when women become mothers because they are free to pursue motherhood as an interesting career, rather than because they have no choice.

4. Circumcision: Doctors have for years labored to justify this surgery. Abundant evidence indicates their efforts have been in vain (Khanolkar, 1950; Jones & MacDonald, 1955; Marshall, 1956; Stern & Dixon, 1960; Boyd & Doll, 1964; Aitken-Swan & Baird, 1965). This operation causes noteworthy pain, and complications such as staphylococcal skin infection (Pequet & Westley, 1965), meatal stenosis, hemorrhage, and sepsis (Morgan, 1967), as well as mortality (Gairdner, 1949). Circumcision robs men (and in some societies women) of an important and functional part of their anatomy. As Morgan points out:

The subcutaneous tissue of the glans is provided with special sensory receptors that are concerned with appreciating pleasurable sensations occurring during coitus. They are stimulated normally only when the glans is exposed. In the circumcised subject, these receptors are constantly stimulated and lose their sensitivity.

The prepuce aids in initial penetration during coitus, while a greater amount of lubrication is necessary in order for the vagina to easily admit the circumcised penis (Whiddon, 1953). But the uncircumcised boy should have his prepuce retracted daily for cleaning, and to prevent phimosis. Circumcision relieves anxious parents from this "disgusting" task, and of course avoids the possibility of unnecessarily stimulating him by handling his penis. This little retraction and cleaning task, however, can be quite pleasant if approached with the right attitude. As a matter of principle, allow your son to decide for himself whether or not to get circumcised.

5. Toilet training: Parents in our hurried, anti-anal culture seem compelled to try to cure each child of the nasty and annoying habit of elimination. Before comprehension begins, the child has learned that there is something wrong with these actions that feel very good. (By now, in fact, some children may have learned that wrong things feel good.) Toilet training can convey disgust by force, or just by the child's fear of loss of love. Wilhelm Reich maintained that children shouldn't be toilet trained before the age of 4 or 5 years, or sexual dysfunction would result. By this time the child can be taught to make decisions and doesn't have to be trained like a dog. Again the point is that relying on fear and anxiety to control behavior does not



produce happy, healthy people. That this needs to be said is indicative of the sort of priorities this culture has.

6. Orgasm: Orgasm is just not the sort of thing one should be ignorant of. Yet many children have never experienced one. (As I experienced orgasms quite often, years before the onset of puberty, I can personally testify that sexual contact can be quite pleasurable to children.) It is exemplary of the lack of public awareness that I often meet people who are surprised to learn that children are capable of having orgasms. In an effort to help repressed children discover their sexuality, W. B. Pomeroy (co-author of the Kinsey reports), has written sexual guides for children, called Boys and Sex, and Girls and Sex. He informs children that they are capable of experiencing orgasm "... one as full and complete and satisfying as those they will have when they are older." He then explains in detail several different ways of producing one.

7. Shame: Some parents like the word modesty better, but long before a child can understand the meaning of the words, a message has been made very clear: people are ashamed of certain parts of the body. The child who has learned this will some day be a parent, repeating the message. It is a testimonial to the strength of the sexual urge that enough of it is left over to enable the race to procreate. The solution is obvious: Try to minimize the effect any of this training may have had on you, in order not to continue the cycle. Appreciate the beauty of all the body. (Somebody tell me who makes dolls with genitals!)

8. Sex roles: Sex roles deprive women of the pleasures of pursuing a career of their choice, and men of the pleasures of raising children. Boys must do this, girls must do that. To notice where these messages are, and stop repeating them, will help hasten the day when they are forgotten. The taboos against homosexual expression of affection must be relaxed before people will quit worrying about what sex you are. Homosexual contacts reaffirm the idea that sex is for intimacy and fun, not just for reproduction. This idea is quite threatening to some people. They will denounce homosexual contacts as the actions of a group of degenerates, having you believe that this sort of contact exempts one from heterosexual contact.

9. Decisions: Children should have the right to choose their sex partners without interference. But from childhood we are taught that we are not capable of making our own decisions or determining our future. "The authorities will tell us all we need to know." It matters little whether the authority is called parent, priest, or president. A human living in our cities learns that danger lurks in disobedience. Playing in the street can get you killed, for example. But the problem isn't uncontrolled children -- it's a defective transportation system. I believe that you can measure the health of a society by the degree to which all its individuals can safely make their own decisions without harming themselves or the group. John Holt's Escape from Childhood is a thought-provoking book affirming the child's need for self-determination in order to develop into a self-determining adult. (Teaching self-determination is not the same as permissiveness, for the individual who has not learned to understand and respect the needs of others is severely handicapped.)

10. Ignorance: Parents depend on ignorance to limit the sexual freedom of their children. Children who are aware of the pleasures of sexual experience are going to be sexually active. This is an added responsibility for parents;



in my opinion, a necessary one. The noted German child psychologist, Dr. Fleischauer-Hardt, has produced Show Me!, a beautifully photographed pictorial guide to sexual pleasures for children. The German attempts at censorship failed to prevent its distribution. If American censorship attempts also fail, the book is due for publication in this country in April 1975 by St. Martin's Press.

In the summary recommendations of the 1970 Berkely Workshop on the Rights of Children (Agel, 1971) it was concluded that the full development of human potential cannot occur

. . . when children are systematically kept ignorant of the varieties of human joy and pleasure in one another. Encouragement of adult-child affectionate exchange, liberation of spontaneous feeling, and rejection of puritanical frigidity play a vital part in the development of a revolutionary teaching, nurturing, and extended family environment . . .

The destruction of human potential for love by repression in childhood must end now.

Children must be allowed self-regulation, encouraged to relate joyfully to their bodies without shame or sex-role prejudices, and their affectionate-sexual-sensual characters must be allowed full expression without so-called moralistic interference.

An important part of all this is the philosophy that children should enjoy being children, and parents should enjoy being parents. With a suitable environment and attitude, raising children should be enjoyable and fulfilling. If it's not fun, something is wrong. This goal is either very practical or too idealistic, depending on your priorities.

Some of the proposals I make here do not have social approval and are not recommended for sudden implementation in a hostile environment. There are, however, subcultures in the form of communes, extended families, and intentional communities in which a receptive attitude can be found. Persons interested in joining or starting such social projects can write to me for further information. Those persons who wish to read more about child sexuality are referred to the bibliography.\*

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\* For reasons of space limitation, the bibliography is not reproduced here. It is available on request (CSC, PO Box 5164, San Diego CA 92105; please enclose SASE).

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Copies of the article are available (\$1.00) from Robin Verner, PO Box 684, Weston MA 02193.

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## CHILDREN

are innately

affectionate	appreciative
kind	considerate
open	tolerant

and have within themselves  
all that can create a happy, joyous life.

## PARENTS

teach their children  
inadvertently to become

timid -- hostile -- deceitful

and to develop  
other anti-social characteristics  
by  
denying their children's right to express  
inborn sensuality,  
to

masturbate  
explore their whole bodies  
explore other children's bodies  
have sex relations with whomever they  
wish and any way they choose.

## SOCIETY

reaps the results  
in

hostile anti-social behavior  
juvenile delinquency  
vandalism  
drug abuse  
liquor abuse  
increasing mental problems  
a soaring crime rate.

In Love and Liberation,

Valida



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